

## Message Text

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42

ORIGIN EA-13

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 SIL-01 CU-03 NSC-10 NSCE-00

CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 PRS-01 DODE-00 PM-03

LAB-01 SAJ-01 /059 R

DRAFTED BY EA/PRCM:CWFREEMAN, JR.:CED

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EA/PRCM:ADROMBERG/TSBROOKS

CU/EA:WJCUNNINGHAM

S/IL:TDBOWIE

EA/RA:RAENSER

----- 061250

R 111449Z SEP 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USLO PEKING

INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 179954

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ELAB, CH

SUBJECT: PRC INVITATION TO ILWU DELEGATION WITHDRAWN

1. WASHINGTON REPRESENTATIVE OF INTERNATIONAL LONGSHOREMEN'S AND WAREHOUSEMEN'S UNION (ILWU) HAS INFORMED DEPTOFF THAT THE PRC HAS APPARENTLY WITHDRAWN AN INVITATION TO VISIT CHINA ISSUED TO ILWU PRESIDENT HARRY BRIDGES AND AN ILWU DELEGATION. THE INVITATION, WHICH WAS ISSUED LAST YEAR BY THE CHINESE PEOPLE'S ASSOCIATION FOR FRIENDSHIP WITH FOREIGN COUNTRIES (CPAFFC), WAS, TO OUR KNOWLEDGE, THE FIRST AND ONLY PRC INVITATION TO ANY PART OF ORGANIZED LABOR IN THE U.S. THE ILWU DELEGATION  
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HAD ORIGINALLY HOPED TO TRAVEL TO CHINA EARLIER THIS YEAR.

THE TRIP WAS POSTPONED EARLY THIS SUMMER FOLLOWING A CPAFFC REQUEST FOR CLARIFICATION OF THE VISIT OF AN ILWU RANK-AND-FILE GROUP TO TAIWAN SOME TWO YEARS AGO. AFTER AN EXCHANGE OF CORRESPONDENCE BETWEEN BRIDGES AND THE CPAFFC THE VISIT SEEMED TO BE ON AGAIN FOR THE LAST WEEK IN SEPTEMBER. ABOUT TWO WEEKS AGO BRIDGES RECEIVED A LETTER FROM THE CPAFFC WITHDRAWING THE INVITATION. THIS IS FIRST INSTANCE OF WHICH WE AWARE INVITATION TO U.S. GROUP HAS BEEN CANCELLED ON A VOWEDLY POLITICAL GROUNDS OF US GROUP'S ALLEGED RELATIONSHIP WITH TAIWAN.

2. CPAFFC LETTER CATALOGS TWO GROUNDS FOR CANCELLATION OF ILWU VISIT: A) FEBRUARY 23, 1973 ISSUE OF ILWU

NEWSPAPER "DISPATCHER" CARRIED FAVORABLE REPORT OF VISIT OF AN ILWU RANK-AND-FILE DELEGATION TO TAIWAN IN DECEMBER 1972 WHICH PROMINENTLY FEATURED PICTURE OF DELEGATES BEING RECEIVED BY MME. CHIANG KAI-SHEK AND ACCOMPANYING TEXT QUOTING ILWU DELEGATES AS EXTENDING TO MME. CHIANG "BEST WISHES OF OUR PRESIDENT HARRY BRIDGES AND THE MEMBERSHIP OF OUR UNION." ARTICLE QUOTES WITHOUT COMMENT MME. CHIANG'S REMARKS ON "SLAVERY" ON THE MAINLAND AND HER STATEMENT THAT "MANY PEOPLE ARE KILLED EACH YEAR TRYING TO LEAVE." ARTICLE ALSO CITES MME. CHIANG'S "WARM GREETINGS TO HARRY BRIDGES AND... INVITATION FOR HIM TO VISIT HER IN TAIWAN." CPAFFC LETTER STATES THAT THIS ARTICLE AND THE ACTS IT RECORDS ARE AN UNFRIENDLY STAND INCONSISTENT WITH PREVIOUS ILWU EXPRESSIONS OF FRIENDSHIP FOR PRC. B) EDITORIAL BY BRIDGES IN APRIL 27, 1973 ISSUE OF "DISPATCHER" ON RESURGENCE OF TRADE UNIONS IN PRC WITH PARAGRAPH LOOKING FORWARD TO CHINA TRIP AND STATING THAT "FOR MANY YEARS NOW THE ONLY COUNTRY OUR OVERSEAS RANK AND FILE DELEGATIONS WERE BARRED FROM VISITING--BARRED BY THE CHINESE, NOT BY OUR GOVERNMENT--WAS CHINA PROPER, THE ONE CHINESE NATION." CPAFFC LETTER CHARACTERIZES THIS STATEMENT AS MALICIOUS FALSEHOOD.

3. BRIDGES HAS SENT REPLY TO CPAFFC CITING CONSISTENT ILWU SUPPORT FOR PRC SINCE 1949, OTHER ILWU LEFT-WING

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CREDENTIALS, ILWU CONDEMNATION OF CHIANG KAI-SHEK IN PAST EDITORIALS, OPPOSITION TO "TWO-CHINA" POLICIES, ILWU ENTERTAINMENT OF NCNA JOURNALISTS DELEGATION DURING RECENT U.S. TOUR. LETTER GOES ON TO POINT OUT THAT ILWU POLICY IS TO PRINT REPORTS OF UNION OVERSEAS DELEGATIONS IN "DISPATCHER" WITHOUT EDITING OR CENSORSHIP, AND DESCRIBES ILWU DELEGATES' WARM REMARKS TO MME. CHIANG AS MERELY COURTESY REQUIRED BY PROTOCOL OF

TAIWAN VISIT BUT WITHOUT SUBSTANTIVE INTENT. BRIDGES  
ALSO WITHDRAWS STATEMENT THAT EARLIER VISITS BARRED  
BY CHINA RATHER THAN U.S.

4. DEPTOFF HAS SEEN ABOVE LETTERS BRIEFLY BUT NO COPIES  
AVAILABLE TO DEPT. DUE TO SOMEWHAT TOUCHY ILWU ATTITUDE  
TOWARD GIVING INFORMATION ON WHAT IT REGARDS AS  
INTERNAL UNION MATTER TO USG. BRIDGES IS SAID TO BE  
UNDER CONSIDERABLE PRESSURE WITHIN UNION ON MATTER OF  
PRC TRIP (UNION EXECUTIVE BOARD EARLIER OVER-RULED HIS  
SUGGESTION THAT DELEGATION BE RANK-AND-FILE ONLY AND  
VOTED TO GO THEMSELVES). HE IS TRYING HARD TO GET THE  
TRIP BACK ON TRACK.

5. NO ACTION REQUIRED ON ABOVE. RUSH

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NNN

## Message Attributes

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**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** n/a  
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**Draft Date:** 11 SEP 1973  
**Decaption Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
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**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
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**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
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**TAGS:** ELAB, CH  
**To:** PEKING  
**Type:** TE  
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